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RURAL DISTRICT OF CHELTENHAM

ANNUAL REPORT.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1954.



Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health:

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M.B., B.S.(Lond), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector:

E.H. ROSSER,
M.R.S.I., M.Inst.S.E.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors

L. GROGAN
Certified Sanitary Inspector
Certified Inspector of Meats and Food

F.H. LEWIS
Certified Sanitary Inspector



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CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cheltenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District.

The vital statistics are favourable, the infant mortality rate being even lower than the record figure for the country as a whole. The District was again free from outbreaks of serious infectious disease.

The Council have provided a piped water supply to all parts of the District, but extensive building development has necessitated additions to the original scheme.

Ample piped water accentuates the need for sewerage and sewage disposal in those villages where there are no proper sewers. Owing to the lack of these facilities, many complaints have been made, but the Council have decided to adhere to a list of priorities, taking each place in turn. Provision of these sewerage schemes is being delayed by the economic policy of the Government.

Now that meat rationing has come to an end, extra duties have been undertaken by the Sanitary Inspectors in carrying out regular meat inspection, much of the work being done outside office hours.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required the Council to arrange for the inspection of houses in the District so that proposals for dealing with houses unfit for human habitation might be submitted to the Minister.

The services of an experienced sanitary inspector were available and he was engaged part time to carry out the necessary inspection of houses.

Mr. E.H. Rosser, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports in detail on housing, water supply, sewerage and the sanitary inspection of the District.

I am glad to be able to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council for their consideration, and the Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1955

CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	81,940
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population (Including members of the Armed Forces) ..	24,990.
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1954) ..	7,382.
Rateable Value (at 31.12.54) ..	£188,615.
Sum represented by a penny rate (at 1954/55) ..	£778.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	410	214	196
Illegitimate	<u>29</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>20</u>
Total	439	223	216

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population 17.6

Area Comparability Factor (Births) .. 1.05

Corrected Birth Rate (17.6 x 1.05) .. 18.5

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	14	6	8
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	15	6	9

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population .. 0.6

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. 33.0

DEATHS 218 120 98

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 9.1

Area Comparability Factor (Deaths) .. 0.98

Corrected Death Rate (9.1 x 0.98) .. 8.9

NO. 30. DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION

Deaths 1

Deaths per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. 2

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (infantile Mortality)

Legitimate	9	6	3
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	10	7	3

All infants per 1,000 Live Births .. 23

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE
(Neonatal Mortality)

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	...	6	3	3
Illegitimate	...	1	1	-
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			..	16

POPULATION

As might be expected from the building development in the District, the Registrar-General's estimate of the population again shows an increase, 24,990 as compared with 24,420 in the previous year. The natural increase in population, excess of births over deaths was 111.

BIRTH RATE

Births numbered 439 as compared with 383 in 1953, giving a rise in the Birth Rate from 15.7 to 17.6. The local rate compares very favourably with the national birth rate of 15.2. Even so, if due allowance is made for the age distribution of the people in the District an even more favourable corrected Birth Rate of 18.5 is obtained.

DEATH RATE

There were 228 deaths as compared with 212 in the previous year, giving a death rate of 9.1. It will be noted that although there was a slight increase in the number of deaths, the local death rate of 9.1 is much lower than the death rate for England and Wales, 11.3. Again, because of the undue proportion of elderly people in the District, adjustment is made to give a Corrected Death Rate of 8.9.

INFANT MORTALITY

Only ten infants died under one year of age; thus the infant mortality rate is 23 deaths per 1,000 live births, as against 25.5. for the country as a whole, which is the lowest ever recorded.

Year by year fewer and fewer infants die, and as the infant mortality reflects on the housing, social and economic circumstances of the community, it is a matter for satisfaction that the local rate is even lower than that for the country as a whole, itself the lowest on record.

CANCER

Cancer was the cause of thirty-eight deaths, an increase of 8 on the previous year. Four men and one woman died from cancer of the lungs.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The Causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification. :-

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	3	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	..	..	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	..	..	1	-
4. Diphtheria	..	..	-	-
5. Whooping cough	..	..	1	-
6. Meningococcal infections	..	..	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	-	-

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
8.	Measles	.. ..	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases		-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	3	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	4	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	-	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		13	9
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	.. ..	-	-
16.	Diabetes	.. ..	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	10	19
18.	Coronary disease, angina	.. ..	21	8
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	2	1
20.	Other heart disease	.. ..	30	20
21.	Other circulatory disease	.. ..	4	1
22.	Influenza	.. ..	1	-
23.	Pneumonia	.. ..	7	6
24.	Bronchitis	.. ..	5	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	3	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	..	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	.. ..	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	.. ..	5	-
30.	Prenancy, childbirth, abortion	..	-	1
31.	Congenital malformations	.. ..	-	1
32.	Other defined and illdefined diseases.		11	13
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	.. ..	1	-
34.	All other accidents	.. ..	3	2
35.	Suicide	.. ..	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	-	-
	Total	..	130	98

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES IN THE DISTRICT
FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	18.3	16.8	16.5	15.7	17.6
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	10.2	10.7	10.0	8.7	9.1
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of infants under 1 year)	24.7	15.5	27.8	31.0	23.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of infants under 1 mth)		7.7	12.6	13.0	16.0

For comparison, the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for England and Wales etc. are given below.

	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>160 C.B.s and Great Towns</u>	<u>County of Glos.</u>	<u>Cheltenham R.D.C.</u>
Live Births	15.2	16.8	15.8	17.6
Still Births (per 1,000 population)	0.36	0.4		0.6
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.3	12.02	11.2	9.1
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)(Per 1,000 Live Births)	25.5	29.02	24.6	23.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 mth.)(Per 1,000 Live Births)	17.7		16.3	16.0

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1954
(excluding Tuberculosis)

	Under 1 yr.		1 - 5		5 - 15		15 - 25		25 and upwards		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	5	9	17	-	-	1	1	10	23
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	5	13	12	13	19	-	-	-	-	28	36
Measles	6	6	13	42	42	53	-	-	-	-	79	101
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	4	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Poliomyelitis												
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	3	1
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Scarlet Fever

There were thirty-three cases of scarlet fever, an increase of seventeen cases on the previous year, when the incidence of the disease was particularly slight in this District.

No spread of the disease could be attributed to the present day practice of isolating the patients at home. At present the disease is mild, and modern treatment effective, and complications are less likely to occur in patients nursed at home.

Diphtheria

No cases were notified.

Whooping Cough

Sixty-four cases of whooping cough were notified, approximately the same number as in the previous year.

One baby, aged seven months died of whooping cough. Vaccination against this disease is to be made available at the Child Welfare Centres. It is of particular value in the case of very young infants and debilitated children in whom the disease may prove fatal.

Measles

Measles was not so prevalent as in the previous year, 180 cases being notified as compared with 328. No deaths occurred.

Poliomyelitis

There were five cases of poliomyelitis, of which four were non-paralytic. There were no deaths.

Food Poisoning

No case of Food Poisoning was notified as such, although paratyphoid fever must be regarded as in this category

Paratyphoid

One case of paratyphoid "B" was notified.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION
(in relation to child population)

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1954

Age at 31.12.1954 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 year		(
	1953	1952	1951	1950	1945 - 49	5 -	9	10 -	14	
Number immunised	270	382	314	340	1269			961		
Total Number immunised	..	..	3544							
Estimate mid-year population 1954	..	..	5934							
Number of children immunised in :	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	
	328	445	416	429	209	297	211	249	335	
Primary	133	211	311	247	166	316	94	192	178	
Maintenance										

The prevalence of Poliomyelitis had an adverse effect on the number of children immunised against diphtheria, 338 as compared with 445 the previous year, of these 180 were babies who completed the course of immunisation before their first birthday, representing 41% of the 439 infants born during the year. The object of the immunisation campaign is to get 75% of babies immunised during their first year.

Every effort must be made to make up the leeway to sustain a high level of resistance so that the community can continue to expect freedom from outbreaks of diphtheria.

VACCINATION.

Owing to the prevalence of poliomyelitis in the second half of the year the number of vaccinations fell, 146 persons being vaccinated as against 186 the previous year. The proportion of children vaccinated under one year of age expressed as a percentage of the number of births during the year, falling from 38 to 31.

Proportion of children vaccinated under one year of age expressed as a percentage of the number of births during the year :

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
32%	33%	38%	31%

Vaccination against Smallpox

The following table sets out the details of the records of vaccination received during the year.

	<u>Under 1 yr.</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>15 or over.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vaccination	117	2	4	9	14	146
Re-vaccination	-	-	1	-	41	42

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

	<u>Children</u>		<u>All persons</u>
	<u>0 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	
Respiratory	-	1	15
Others	-	1	1

Deaths

Respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	4
Others	..	..	..	..	..	nil

Tuberculosis Register.

The number of cases on the register, 31st December, 1954 was as follows :-

<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>Central Nervous System.</u>			<u>Other forms</u>			<u>All forms</u>
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
79	59	138	-	1	1	14	17	31	170

Eighteen new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year as compared with 14 cases in 1953; there were 4 deaths. These figures reflect on the control of tuberculosis. Modern treatment has brought about a great decline in the number of deaths but there is little change in the incidence of new cases or in the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register. The danger of infection does not decrease.

The District is served by a Mass Radiography Unit which visits factories in the area. Many people who should take advantage of this service do not do so, although the best chance

of cure lies in early diagnosis. If the disease is diagnosed in the early stages and treated, the patient will not be a source of infection to others over many years as the chronic case so often is.

The housing circumstances of the patients are brought to the notice of the Council, so that, where necessary, better accommodation can be offered to the patient's family and spread of infection prevented.

A new development to prevent the spread of tuberculosis is the extension of B.C.G. vaccination to susceptible school children when they are 13 years old. By this means the resistance of the community will be built up and so cut across the spread of the disease.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, - Clean Food.

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 are in force for securing hygienic methods in the Handling Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in the open air.

Food shops and similar establishments are inspected regularly to ensure that the food is wholesome and that the premises comply with requirements.

Traders have been supplied with notices requesting customers not to bring dogs into food shops.

In general shop keepers and their assistants are most co-operative and anxious to maintain a high standard. The customer must insist on clean methods in the preparation and handling of food.

Actually no case of food poisoning was notified which testifies to the high standard of food handling in the District.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 - 1952. - Slaughterhouses

Meat rationing came to an end in July, 1954. The Council were made responsible for ensuring that sufficient slaughtering accommodation was available to butchers in the District, until such time as the Government's policy of moderate concentration of slaughtering is implemented.

Only two of the slaughterhouses used in 1939 remained and in the case of one of these there were serious objections in the interest of public health.

It was ascertained that adequate facilities for the District were available at the abattoir of the Cheltenham Corporation.

A licence for a private slaughterhouse in Winchcombe was granted and a licence refused on public health grounds for one at Bishops Cleeve. The Council's decision was upheld by the magistrates when an appeal against the decision was heard in Court.

Milk and Dairies Regulations.

An order was made by the Minister under the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, specifying areas of England in which all milk sold by retail must be "specially designated" milk, namely "pasteurised", "sterilised"

or "tuberculin tested" from 1st October, 1954. Among the areas specified was one known as Gloucester and District, which included the parishes of Badgeworth, Boddington, Coberley, Cowley, Deerhurst, Elmstone Hardwicke, Great Witcombe, Leckhampton, Leigh, Shurdington, Staverton, Stoke Orchard, Swindon, Uckington and Up Hatherley.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 : removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

Section 1.

No application was made to the Court for a Removal Order under this section.

A number of old people living alone and in failing health have been visited from time to time. A little regular help often enables them to carry on living in their own homes and prevents insanitary conditions arising. This assistance is usually given by the Home Help Service. The old people's clubs are most useful; they look after their members and report instances in which help is required.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Service is maintained by the County Council and is obtained from Cheltenham Control Station (telephone number Cheltenham 3112) and in emergency dialing "999" to the local exchange and asking for "Ambulance Service".

Home Help Service

This service is organised by the County Council, and a charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness.

As noted elsewhere, the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage because of infirmity.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings (telephone number : Cheltenham 55746).

Nursing in the Home.

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the County Council. Information is available from the Council Offices or the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings (Tel. 55746).

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES (Gloucestershire County Council)

Apperley ..	..	..	2nd Wednesday, 4th Thursday
Ashchurch ..	..	..	Alternate Tuesdays
Bishops Cleeve ..	..	..	Each Wednesday
Dumbleton ..	..	..	4th Friday
Leckhampton.	..	..	Each Friday

Prestbury	..	..	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
The Reddings	..	..	2nd & 4th Thursdays
Shurdington	..	..	1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Stanway	..	..	2nd Friday
Stoke Orchard	..	..	Alternate
Twynning	..	..	2nd Thursday
Winchcombe	..	..	Alternate Tuesdays
Witcombe and Benthams	..	..	2nd and 4th Wednesdays

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSING

The following table sets out the number of new houses built in the post-war years.

	New Houses 1946 to 53	Completed 1954	Total at 31.12.54
Permanent Houses Cheltenham R.D.C.	583	258	841
Temporary Houses Cheltenham R.D.C.	43	-	43
Housing Units, Former Camp Sites	246 (less 86 dwellings demolished or uninhabited)	-	160
Private enterprise	164	152	316
Bishops Cleeve Housing Association	311	98	409
Cheltenham Corporation	331	15	346
Gloucestershire County Council	-	2	2
			<u>2117</u>

Article 31, Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925

1.	The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	..	16
2.	The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	.. ..	35
3.	The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to :- (a) the service of notices requiring the execution of works	.. ..	1
	or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders	.. ..	15
4.	The number of notices served requiring the execution of the works	.. ..	1
5.	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	.. ..	2
6.	The number of demolition or closing orders made.		15
7.	The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936		6
8.	The number of houses demolished	.. ..	4

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

The above Act, which came into operation on the 30th August, 1954, contains important new provisions for widening the scope of the Government's Housing Policy. The Act provides the Statutory powers needed to implement the proposals contained in the White Paper (Cmd.8996) "Houses - The Next Step" published in November, 1953.

Post-war housing policy has so far been mainly directed to the erection of new houses with little attention to the condition of existing unfit or sub-standard houses. It is now the declared intention of the Government to assist local authorities in carrying out their statutory responsibilities for the clearance and replacement of unfit houses, the securing of essential repairs, and the encouragement of improvements and conversions.

Until the 1954 Act came into force, the only guidance given to local authorities for judging the fitness of houses was that, in determining whether a house was or was not fit for human habitation, regard must be had to the general standard of housing in the district and to the requirements of any local bylaws in force within the district.

Now, for the first time, there will be a uniform standard of fitness for habitation applicable throughout the country :-

"9 - (i) In determining for any of the purposes of the "principal Act whether a house is unfit for human habitation, "regard shall be had to its condition in respect of the "following matters, that is to say :-

- "(a) repair;
- "(b) stability;
- "(c) freedom from damp;
- "(d) natural lighting;
- "(e) ventilation;
- "(f) water supply;
- "(g) drainage and sanitary conveniences; and
- "(h) facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food, and for the disposal of waste water.

"and the house shall be deemed to be unfit as aforesaid if and "only if it is so far defective in one or more of the said "matters that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation in "that condition."

Actually, the Act contains three standards, the one mentioned above, and generally referred to as the eight-point standard of fitness, to be used also as one of the conditions governing rent increases; a lesser standard to which condemned houses may be "patched" to render them "adequate for the time being"; and a higher twelve-point standard to which houses must be improved to qualify for improvement grant. This standard approximates to the standard of a new house.

Improvement Grants. (Section 20, Housing Act, 1949; Section 16 Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

The new Act widens the scope of the provisions relating to improvement grants, making the scheme more attractive to the would-be applicant. The lower limit of cost of works eligible for grant has been reduced to £100 and the upper limit of £800 has been removed, though the maximum grant allowable is still £400. The period for which a dwelling improved by grant aid is expected to provide satisfactory accommodation has been reduced

from 30 years to 15 years. Local authorities are now empowered to deal with applications and decide on the amount of grant without reference to the Ministry.

The Minister urges Councils to do all in their power to popularise the scheme and to encourage applications in all suitable cases.

There is no doubt that there are a large number of sub-standard houses which can be brought up to a reasonable standard of repair and amenity at the same time preventing their further deterioration into slums, by the implementation of the improvement grant provisions. The cost to the Council and to the national exchequer is a fraction of the cost of providing new dwellings, and once a grant has been made and the dwelling improved, the cost of maintenance falls upon the private owner and not on the authority as is the case with the Council houses.

During the year 46 applications for grant have been considered, and of these 16 were refused by the Council; 30 were granted for a sum totalling £7,364.

WATER SUPPLY.

The scheme for the provision of a piped water supply to all parts of the Rural District is complete, but the development in some areas has been so great that additional schemes for enlarging the mains have been necessary.

The Council's supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year.

Forty-one samples were taken for bacteriological analysis, and eight samples for chemical examination; in addition, seventeen bacteriological and four chemical samples were taken from private supplies.

	<u>No. of houses</u>	<u>No. of houses supplied direct into house</u>	<u>No. of houses supplied by means of standpipes.</u>
Alderton	135	125	-
Ashchurch (incl. Aston Cross, Aston-on-Carrant, Fiddington & Pamington)	390	349	-
Badgeworth (incl. Bentham & The Reddings)	458	372	-
Boddington (incl. Haydon)	79	78	-
Bishops Cleeve	965	951	-
* Buckland (incl. Laverton)	75	68	7
Coberley	81	25	-
* Cowley (Birdlip public,) (Cowley private supply)	99	76	-
Deerhurst (incl. Apperley & Walton Hill)	203	130	-
Dumbleton (incl. Gt. Washbourne, Little Washbourne and Wormington)	171	93 (public) 67 (private)	-
Elmstone Hardwicke	62	52	-
Gotherington	122	104	-
* Great Witcombe	31	26	-
Hawling	50	36	-
Leigh (incl. Coombe Hill)	94	92	-
Leckhampton	337	287	-
Oxenton (incl. Woolstone)	50	31	-
* Prescott	30	22	-
Prestbury	1035	966	-
Shurdington	259	218	-
Snowhill	70	39	-
Southam	138	138	-
Stanton	84	82	-

CHELTEHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report by Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor on the work of his Department for the Year 1954

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Department for which I am responsible to the Council.

The activities of the Council have continued to increase and in the succeeding part of the report it is proposed to deal with various duties under separate headings unless they have already been dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING

The provision of housing accommodation, whilst it is still a very important task for the Council, does appear to be less acute than at any time since the end of hostilities in 1945. The effect of the easing of restrictions upon private enterprise has resulted in the number of completed private houses rising to 152 as against 81 in 1953, and 32 in 1952. A further encouraging feature is that at the end of 1954, the number of private enterprise houses in course of erection had risen to 205, plus 56 for the Bishops Cleeve Housing Association, and 7 for the Dowty Housing Association. The number of sites for future private houses approved by the Town Planning Authority now totals approximately two thousand.

The total number of houses completed in the District totalled 311, and based on an average of $3\frac{1}{2}$ persons per house, this means that 1,038 persons have been provided with permanent accommodation during the year.

The efforts of this Council have, in the main, been directed to providing housing at Ashchurch, Bishops Cleeve, Prestbury, Shurdington and Winchcombe. These are the main centres of population and where the Council owned sites with services available.

The number of requisitioned properties at the beginning of the year was 17, but this was reduced to four by the end of the year.

The list of applications for houses is higher than a year ago. The number of houses erected by private enterprise showed, as anticipated, an increase during the year, and the rate continues to be maintained.

Applications for Housing Accommodation

Ordinary applications :-

a. Living in the District	..	391	
b. Not living in the District..		<u>115</u>	506

Families occupying dwellings on temporary estates

a. The Park, Stoke Orchard	..	97	
b. Chargrove Grounds	..	12	
c. Witcombe Grounds	..	<u>54</u>	163

Families in requisitioned properties

5

The occupation of caravans is still increasing and more licensed sites came into use during the year.

Temporary Housing.

Under this heading accommodation of former camp sites has been included. The Council still control sites at Stoke Orchard, Shurdington and Witcombe. The policy of the Council has been to re-house the families who have been on these sites for a long time. It was hoped that when the families were rehoused from Stoke Orchard, Shurdington and Witcombe, it would be possible to remove the buildings, but with the exception of a small number the need for accommodation and the financial position has compelled the Council to continue to use these buildings, which are often sub-standard and deteriorating rapidly.

Many of these dwellings were improved in accordance with the terms set out in the circulars received from the Ministry of Health, whereby the costs of adaptation were repaid by loans taken up for a period of 10 years. Part of the costs of repayments were to be borne by the Ministry and part by the Council.

The following figures will illustrate the work involved in dealing with these sites.

No. of dwellings at end of 1954	..	..	163
No. of Repair Orders completed by Contractors (not including conversions or matters arising therefrom)	..	..	36
No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's staff	..	..	323
No. of visits	..	..	311

Other Activities in Housing.

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government decided that it is now time for preparations to be made for dealing with slum clearance and other unfit houses, and directions were received to the effect that the Minister would expect local authorities to make returns by the 31st July, 1955, of all such properties to be dealt with, and to submit a programme for dealing with these. It was impossible to deal with this question with the existing staff, and the Council accordingly agreed to employ a part-time inspector to undertake these duties. We were fortunate in that Mr. J.H. Wright, formerly Chief Sanitary Inspector for the County Borough of Smethwick had come to reside in the District, and he offered himself for these duties.

It was further decided that the procedure should be to deal with all properties which were placed in category V during the Housing Survey of 1946/47. Since that survey the standard of fitness has been fixed by the passing of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and, furthermore, a great deal more importance is rightly being placed upon the question of reconditioning. It was known that there are many houses in this District where the accommodation is very limited, and in consequence the provision of bathrooms etc. was a difficult proposition, but by combining two properties it would be possible to save the buildings and avoid demolition orders. Mr. Wright commenced his duties in October, and by the end of the year was making very good progress with the re-inspection and recording under the new regulations.

HOUSING ACTS

Under the Housing Acts the following figures relate :-

Housing inspections or re-visits	..	..	513
No. of properties on which Statutory Notices were served			16
No. of properties on which Statutory Notices were complied with	..		6
No. of properties on which Statutory Notices were served during 1953 which have been complied with during 1954	..	..	1
No. of informal Notices served during 1954	..		20
No. of informal Notices complied with	..		18
No. of informal Notices served during 1953 and complied with during 1954	..	..	11
No. of roofs repaired	..	..	9
No. of drainage systems repaired or renewed	..		10
No. of houses for which applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year	..		46
No. of Grants approved covering improvements	..		26
No. of Grants approved covering conversions	..		4
No. of inspections re. Improvement Grants	..		78

Requisitioned Properties

At the end of 1954 the Council held under Requisitioning Powers four properties which gave accommodation to five families. It is the policy to derequisition these properties and during 1954 thirteen properties were released to the owners.

The following figures relate to these properties :-

Orders for repairs completed by the Council's workmen		10
Orders for repairs completed by Contractors	..	7
No. of visits to inspect	.. ..	36

Repairs to Council Houses.

Repairs to Council Houses are generally carried out by direct labour, and at the end of the year we employed a total of nine men upon this work (not including the part time of the Foremen). The following figures show the work carried out :-

No. of houses repairable by the Council at the end of 1954 (others will be released from Contractors from time to time) ..	870
No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's Staff (an order may contain several items)	1144
No. of Repair Orders completed by Contractors, including Electricity and Gas ..	490
Total ..	<u>1,634</u>
No. of houses overhauled and redecorated externally	186
No. of houses redecorated internally on change of tenancy ..	2
No. of defective grates replaced ..	5
No. of tiled surround fireplaces fitted ..	20

No of defective draining boards replaced			28
No. of defective sets of firebricks replaced	..		26
No. of defective firebaskets replaced	..	..	28
No. of defective firebars to ranges replaced	..		20
No. of defective sinks replaced	..	..	1
No. of defective sanitary pails replaced	..		8
No. of W.C. pans replaced	..	..	27
No. of defective taps replaced	..	..	16
No. of defective flush boxes replaced	..	..	4
No. of defective chimney pots replaced	..	..	14
No. of defective lavatory basins replaced	..		2
No. of defective W.C. seats replaced	..	..	36
No. of portable coal fired coppers replaced	..		5
No. of gate posts renewed	..	..	14
No. of roofs repaired	..	..	82
No. of eaves gutters repaired	..	..	27
No. of visits to Council Houses for various purposes			2,856
No. of cases where damage has been repaired at the tenant's expense	..	..	15
No. of applications to erect television aerials dealt with	..	..	77

BUILDING BYELAWS.

The work in connection with the Building Byelaws has continued to increase during the year, as will be seen by the number of houses erected or in course of erection.

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Total number of plans received and considered	337	423
No. of plans re-submitted	50	63
No. of plans withdrawn	-	1
Total considered by the Committee	387	485
Total number of plans approved - permanent	355	427
Total number of plans approved - temporary	4	14
Total number of plans disapproved	28	44
Temporary approvals renewed	18	12
Plans declared of no effect	10	3
Temporary Building removed	1	3
No. of recommendations to Area Planning Office	192	232
No. of visits to properties and sites	1,805	2,430
No. of houses completed by the Council	124	258
No. of houses completed by Housing Association	8	98
No. of houses completed by Private Enterprise	81	152
No. of houses converted to more dwellings or other buildings converted	5	6

No. of houses in course of erection at the end of 1954 :-

Council (including flats)	..	..	50	
Housing Association ..	..	..	56	
Private Enterprise ..	..	..	<u>205</u>	311

Each plan when received is checked and acknowledged, and if there is any discrepancy and time permits, the owner's or architect's attention is drawn to this with a view to the necessary alterations being made prior to consideration by the Committee.

Every endeavour is made to inspect work at the following stages - excavation of foundations; completion of concrete foundations; dampcourse; roofing; testing of drains; installation of fittings; and completion.

In a number of cases the owners of houses have obtained loans through the Council under the Housing Act, 1949, and in such cases more frequent inspections are made, and the work is closely checked before certificates are issued for payments.

Control of Civil Building Regulations.

As from the 1st January, 1954, the financial limit within which work on any single property could be done without a licence was £1,000, this figure being an increase of £500 on that of the previous year.

Licences to erect new houses with a floor area not exceeding 1500 sq.ft. were issued automatically on receipt of an application, provided that plans had been approved under the Council's building byelaws, and the Town Planning Acts. Applications for houses with floor areas between 1500 and 2500 sq.ft. were also considered and a licence issued when the application merited this.

As from the 1st April, 1954, the responsibility for the issue of licences for dwellings with a floor area of less than 1500 sq.ft. was transferred from local authorities to the Ministry of Works.

On the 2nd November, 1954, the Minister of Works announced that with effect from the 10th November, all building and civil engineering works could be carried out without a building licence.

The relaxation and final abolition of licensing restrictions during the year has relieved the Council of many duties and has enabled my staff to concentrate on other important matters.

The following figures relate to the work during the year :-

Applications received	..	..	..	37
Licences granted (including supplementary)	..	..	..	47
Licences issued by the Ministry of Works	..	..	..	69
No. of houses licensed to be erected by private enterprise	..	..	..	369

PUBLIC HEALTH

Under this heading has been included the work in connection with milk supply, infectious diseases, water supply, nuisances, disinfestations, tents, vans and sheds, factories and workshops, pollution of streams, inspection of food premises, public conveniences and sewage disposal etc. The following figures show the activities during the year :-

No. of complaints received or nuisances discovered				84
Nuisances abated .. .. .	..	..	..	79
Complaints not justified .. ..	..	..	..	2
Informal Notices sent .. .. .	..	..	..	36
Statutory Notices served .. ..	..	..	..	nil
No. of visits in connection with the above items ..				243
No. of premises disinfected .. ..	..	..	..	5
No. of premises disinfested .. ..	..	..	..	6
No. of visits re disinfestation .. ..	..	..	..	13
No. of new drainage systems installed .. ..	..	..	..	61
Visits to new drainage systems .. ..	..	..	..	247
No. of visits to public conveniences .. ..	..	..	..	33
Infectious disease visits .. .. .	..	..	..	35

INSPECTION OF FOODS

The following foodstuffs have been condemned :-

Tinned		cwts	qrs.	lbs.	ozs
Tinned Fruit .. .. .	..	5	1	14	11½
Tinned vegetables .. .. .	..	-	3	25	10
Tinned fish .. .. .	..	-	-	2	9
Tinned meat .. .. .	..	1	2	2	6
Meat .. .. .	..	2	3	-	8
Tinned puree .. .. .	..	1	1	1	14
Custard powder .. .. .	..	-	-	4	5
		11	3	23	15½
Soups .. .. .	..	179½	fl.oz		
Tinned milk .. .. .	..	98	pints		
Carcases etc		1	cow		
		1	pig		
		2	pigs heads		
		1	leg of mutton		

No. of slaughtered animals inspected :-

Beasts	87
Calves	41
Pigs	147
Sheep	253

No. of visits in connection with the Food & Drugs Act 244

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Sale of Icecream.

No. of applications considered and licences issued 7

Inspection of Foods.

During the year new legislation was brought into operation dealing with the control and licensing of slaughterhouses. Under these new regulations, local authorities were empowered to licence private slaughterhouses where they consider the need for such premises exists, and where such premises were suitable. This matter was very seriously considered by the Public Health Committee, and it was eventually decided to consider each application on its merits. Two applications were received from owners of slaughterhouses which were licenced before the war; one of these was granted, and the other refused. In the case of the refusal, the owner appealed against the decision of the Council, and pending the hearing of the case before the magistrates, the premises were used for slaughtering. In connection with the latter, the Council took procedure against the owner, and these proceedings, together with the appeal were heard on the same day. The magistrates upheld the Council's decision as regards the refusal of the licence and fined the owner £102. plus costs for using the slaughterhouse without a licence.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

The following figures relate to the activities in this section during the year :-

No. of new applications for licences received	..	81
No. of applications withdrawn	.. ..	5
No. of new applications approved (private sites)	..	69
No. of new applications approved (Council sites)	..	3
No. of new applications disapproved	.. ..	4
No. of visits to sites	.. ..	191
No. of previous licences renewed	.. ..	65

Factories Act, 1937

No. of informal notices served	.. ..	nil
No. of unsuitable sanitary conveniences rectified		2
No. of visits to factories	.. ..	71

Sewage Disposal

The work of extending the sewers at Southam, Bishops Cleeve and Woodmancote, and the enlargement of the Brockhampton Sewage Disposal Works was completed early in the year. The new sewage disposal works at Badgeworth, which deal with part of the parish of Badgeworth and the parish of Shurdington, were also completed during the year.

Samples of sewage effluents were taken periodically at the Council's sewerage works, and 20 samples were submitted for analysis

No. of visits to Sewage Disposal Works etc	..	815
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Water Supplies

During the year the negotiations for the acquisition of the Laverton Water Undertaking were completed and arrangements were made for taking a new supply to the village by means of a 3" main from the parish of Stanton.

A 6" main (approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles in length) has now been laid from Stoke Orchard and connected to the 5" main at Bishops Cleeve. This has provided a link between the Cheltenham Corporation supply and the Councils own supply.

A 3" main (approximately 900 yards in length) has been laid between the Farmers Arms, Bishops Cleeve and Gotherington Cross and this has completed a circuit of mains in this particular area.

During the year the number of samples submitted from the Council's supply totalled 49, and from private sources 21.

During the year the number of new connections to the mains totalled 570, of these 379 connections were made to the Council's mains, 185 to the Cheltenham Corporation's mains and 6 to the Gloucester City mains.

No. of visits to supplies, mains etc. 113

The total length of cast iron distributor mains owned by the Council of diameters from 2 - 7 inches is approximately 106 miles. In addition there are very long lengths of galvanised pipes and approximately $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 3 and 4 inch mains between the springs and reservoirs.

Refuse and Salvage

Regular collections of house refuse are made throughout the District. Weekly collections are made in the built up areas, fortnightly in the villages, and monthly in the more remote and scattered areas.

The controlled method of tipping is undertaken, and refuse is tipped at Shurdington, Snowhill, Prestbury and Winchcombe.

Refuse is collected weekly in the Parishes of Bishops Cleeve, Leckhampton, Prestbury, part Up Hatherley, and Winchcombe. Fortnightly collections are made in the remaining Parishes of the District with the exception of Alstone, Teddington, Charlton Abbots, Hawling, Elmstone Hardwicke, Leigh, Oxenton, Woolstone and Twynning which are collected monthly.

No. of visits to tips etc. - 253.

Vehicles. 3 Shelvoke & Drewry 16/20 cu.yd. fore and aft tippers.
1 Bedford Compressmore 18/20 cu.yd.

No. of dwellings.	$\frac{1953}{6,854}$	$\frac{1954.}{7,379}$
Quantity of refuse collected (approx) (cu.yds)	31,000	32,000
Distance travelled by vehicles. (miles)	32,000	34,400

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY.

No. of informal notices served	..	2.
No. of visits.	.. ..	90.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT 1928

No. of informal notices served.	..	..	..	14
No. of licences issued to store petroleum	..	..	..	73
No. of visits	..	..	..	93

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

The arrangements whereby the Pest Operator deals with Tewkesbury Borough and the Cheltenham Rural District continues to operate in a very satisfactory manner.

During 1954 the Pest Operator has made the following visits and treatments :-

	No. of treatments to premises.	No. of visits.	No. of premises inspected (including the clearing of baits.
Cheltenham R.D.C. premises.	60	180	114
Other premises in the Cheltenham Rural District.	350	989	292
Premises in Tewkesbury Borough	88	256	79
Total	498	1425	485

Total number of complaints received and visited .. 74

In addition to the above work, the undermentioned sewerage systems were treated during April and October.

Bishops Cleeve.	Prestbury.
Tewkesbury Borough.	Winchcombe.

Shurdington sewers were test baited during October and found to be clear.

S U M M A R Y .

The foregoing report deals with the principal sections, but during the year there were other fields of activity such as dangerous structures, Milk and Dairies regulations, Street numbering, inspection of housing sites etc. These have entailed many visits and inspections.

The summary of the visits apart from the maintenance of the Council's Water Supplies or the Clerk of Works on Housing, Water or Sewerage schemes is as follows :-

	1953.	1954.
New Council Housing sites	111	88
Temporary Housing.	333	311
Housing Act inspections	184	513
Improvement Grants	-	78
Requisitioned Properties	29	36
Council House Repairs	2074	2856
Building Byelaw inspections	1805	2430
Control of Civil Building	204	-
Public Health (Nuisances, Statutory Notices etc.)	214	291
New Drainage Systems	468	247
Public Conveniences	50	33
Food and Drugs Acts	43	244
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	265	191
Factories and Workshops Act	81	71
Total carried fwd.	5861	7389

Summary (continued)

					<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Sewage Disposal	..	..	..	..	677	815
Water supply	..	..	..	..	70	113
Refuse and Salvage	..	..	..	..	296	253
Public Rights of Way	..	..	..	..	74	90
Petroleum Acts	..	..	..	..	107	93
Milk and Dairies	..	..	..	..	11	20
Miscellaneous visits	..	..	..	..	152	150
Attendance at meetings	..	..	..	..	107	93
Street Numbering	..	..	..	..	18	5
Total brought forward					<u>5861</u>	<u>7389</u>
Grand total					<u><u>7373</u></u>	<u><u>9021</u></u>

No. of communications dispatched from
the office during the year 4037

The year ~~has~~ again been one of increased activity, and I wish to thank all members of the Council's staff for the good work they have done during the year, and for the friendly and close co-operation which has prevailed throughout.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council for the kindness and consideration which they have afforded when dealing with the work of the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. M. Rooper

Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor.